

Message Text

SECRET

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61
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COA-02 INT-08 AGR-20

OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /138 W
----- 047688

R 091800Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3864
INFO DEFENSE
CINCLANT
COMICEDFOR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0932

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR IC NATO
SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE AND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: (A) STATE 155613, (B) REYKJAVIK 0908

1. ANSWER TO YOUR QUERY PARA ONE REFTEL (A) IS UNFORTUNATELY YES. HOWEVER GIZURARSSON AGREED TO CONTACT US NEXT WEEK TO ADVISE WHAT HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WILL PERMIT. ALTHOUGH HE HAS AS OF NOW RULED OUT VISIT TO US, WE ARE HOPING HIS CONDITION WILL ENABLE TRIP TO TAKE PLACE AFTER ALL, BUT PERHAPS CLOSER TO MID-SEPTEMBER.

2. WITH REGARD TO FISHERIES DISPUTE, THERE CERTAINLY HAS BEEN NO DAMPENING OF EMOTION EMONG THE ICELANDIC PUBLIC. INCIDENTS SUCH AS ALLEGED RAMMING BY UK TUG BOAT LLOYDSMAN OF ICELAND'S CUTTER ALBERT LAST WEEK (REYKJAVIK 0908) KEEP EMOTIONS HIGH. WE CANNOT DETECT ANY SHIFT IN GOI' ATTITUDE EITHER. HOWEVER, JUST BEFORE ICELANDIC AMB HARALDUR KROYER RE-

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TURNED TO US LAST WEEKEND, HE TOLD ME PRIMIN IS QUITE WORRIED OVER

UNRESOLVED DISPUTE. KROYER THEN REMARKED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT
"IT'S TOO BAD LADY TWEEDSMUIR IS UK'S NEGOTIATOR." THIS REMARK
MIGHT HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE WHICH DEPT MIGHT WANT TO FOLLOW UP
WITH KROYER. THERE IS POSSIBILITY I MAY SEE PRIMIN NEXT
WEEK AND WILL TRY DISCREETLY TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF
FISHERIES DISPUTE. I DOUBT LORD CARRINGTON'S HINT ALONE WILL
BRING GOI CLOSER TO NEGOTIATING TABLE.

3. DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS UK AMB MCKENZIE AND
BRITISH EMBASSY STAFF SEEM TO BE GOING OUT OF THE WAY
TO PROMOTE IDEA GOI IS BLUFFING ON IDF RETENTION ISSUE.
UNFORTUNATELY THEY HAVE BEEN TELLING THIS TO ICELANDIC GOVT
OFFICIALS AS WELL AS TO DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES. AT ONE RECEP-
TION AND WITHIN EARSHOT OF FONMIN AND CHRMN OF ALTHING FOREIGN
RELATIONS CMTE, MCKENZIE IN LOUD VOICE TOLD ME HE ACCUSED
PRIMIN OF BLUFFING ON IDF ISSUE AND DARED HIM TO THROW OUT THE
BASE. I SUGGESTED TO MCKENZIE HE KEEP THESE VIEWS TO HIMSELF,
BUT I AM TOLD HE IS NOT FOLLOWING THIS ADVICE. IT ALMOST SOUNDS
AS IF UK EMB HERE IS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON.
I INTEND HAVE TALK WITH MCKENZIE AGAIN ON THIS SCORE. IN ABOVE
INSTANCE, FONMIN WHO OVERHEARD MCKENZIE ADVISED ME IT WOULD BE
DANGEROUS TO BELIEVE GOI IS BLUFFING.

IRVING

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